

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SCEM-02 EB-11 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 INT-08 COME-00 SPM-01

SNM-02 PC-04 DRC-01 /193 W
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R 131314Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1758

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, ENRG, PFOR, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN ELECTION CAMPAIGN: COPEI'S PLATFORM

REF: CARACAS 8587

1. COPEI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE LORENZO FERNANDEZ DELIVERED A MAJOR ADDRESS NOVEMBER 9, HIGHLIGHTING THE MAIN POINTS OF HIS PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC THE SAME DAY. EMBASSY IS POUCHING SEVERAL COPIES TO ARA/NC, AND WILL DO THE SAME WITH THE AD PLATFORM, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE RELEASED THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 16-18. ITEMS IN FERNANDEZ'S SPEECH AND PLATFORM OF SPECIAL USG INTEREST FOLLOW:

(A) PETROLEUM - FERNANDEZ PROPOSES TO ADVANCE DATE FOR RE-VERSION OF PETROLEUM CONCESSIONS TO THE STATE, AFTER CAREFUL STUDY AND CONSULTATIONS, AND TO ACCELERATE TRAINING OF VENEZUELAN TECHNICIANS. "THE ORINOCO PETROLIFEROUS BELT WILL NOT BE NEGOTIATED. IT WILL BE EXPLORED BY VENEZUELAN, EXPLOITED BY VENEZUELAN, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE." (SEE REFTTEL FOR SIMILAR STATEMENTS ON PETROLEUM BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FERNANDEZ.)

(B) INDUSTRIALIZATION - ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT OF PETRO-CHEMICAL, ALUMINUM AND STEEL INDUSTRIES. WITH REGARD TO STEEL, THERE WILL BE A 15-YEAR PLAN WHOSE GOAL WILL BE THE PRODUCTION OF 10 MILLION TONS OF STEEL ANNUALLY.

(C) FOREIGN TRADE - USE PETROLEUM AS A LEVER TO GAIN ACCESS FOR NON-TRADITIONAL EXPORTS IN MARKETS OF DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. PROMOTE EXPORTS OF PROCESSED GOODS RATHER THAN RAW MATERIALS. (NOTE: THOUGH NOT MENTIONED IN THE PLATFORM, COPEI NO DOUBT ALSO FAVORS THE PROPOSAL, RECENTLY ADVANCED BY FEDECAMARAS, OF USING PETROLEUM AS A LEVER TO OBTAIN RAW MATERIALS AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS.)

(D) POPULATION - STRENGTHEN THE FAMILY. (NOTE: THERE IS NO MENTION OF FAMILY PLANNING. IN FACT, IN CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS FERNANDEZ HAS REPEATEDLY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE ON INCREASING VENEZUELA'S POPULATION.)

(E) PACIFICATION - CONTINUE PRESENT PACIFICATION PROGRAM. COPEI WILL INTRODUCE AN AMNESTY LAW IN CONGRESS.

(F) NARCOTICS - FOLLOW A HARD LINE AGAINST NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS.

(G) INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS - RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES (READ CUBA). CONTINUE TO PROMOTE "INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE," LATIN AMERICAN INTEGRATION (PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE ANDEAN PACT), AND AN ACTIVE CARIBBEAN POLICY.

2. COMMENT: FERNANDEZ BEGAN HIS SPEECH BY DECLARING HE WILL BE PROUD TO BUILD UPON THE RECORD OF PRESIDENT CALDERA, AND THAT SUMS UP THE COPEI PROGRAM IN A NUTSHELL. OVERALL, THE COPEI PROGRAM IS LONG ON GENERALITIES AND SHORT ON SPECIFIS, WHICH WILL LEAVE PLENTY OF ROOM FOR MANEUVER IF COPEI WINS THE PRESIDENCY.
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